

Good News from Parks and Recreation

May 2012

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks Fund Information is now on our website and will be updated on a regular basis.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue facebook icon on our website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

The spring Duluth Quarterly is available: check out that issue at: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/city/newsletter/viewer.cfm>

Arbor Day Celebration on Thursday, May 17th at Chambers Grove

This year the Arbor Day celebration will take place on Thursday, May 17th in Chambers Grove Park. Mayor Ness will be joined by others for the ceremonial planting of the Arbor Day tree and the unveiling of the Tree City USA signs in Duluth. The celebration will take place at 10:30 AM. Everyone is invited.

The City of Duluth is being recognized for its partnership with Community Action Duluth and two of its programs: The Seeds of Success and the Duluth StreamCorps. These two arms of CAD have been working with the City of Duluth and the City will be honored at a special dinner at Clyde Iron on **May 18!** Some project highlights: The City of Duluth offered up little used park lands to grow food and has worked with the StreamCorps for tree planting projects, including large white pines and storage of tree planting materials. More information at: <http://www.communityactionduluth.org/programs.html>

Re-Leaf Duluth! The City of Duluth is looking for volunteers to help with its tree inventory! No experience is needed. Training and materials provided. Tree ID and Condition Rating Trainings on Saturday, **May 19**, 9:30-11 am at Grant Community Center, Sunday, **May 20**, 1-3 pm at Evergreen Senior Center (City Center West), and Tuesday, **May 22**, 6:30-8 pm at Portman Community Center. More dates to be added. For more information, contact Shawna MullenEardley at 763-300-2982.

Friends of the Lakewalk is hosting its annual meeting on Sunday, **May 20** from 4-7 pm at the Bayfront Family Center in Bayfront Festival Park. Food and Drink provided. Come on down and learn what they are up to. For more information, contact Jennifer Boyle jennifer.r.boyle@gmail.com.

Parks and Recreation: Mini Master Plan for Chester Park

The public was invited to attend the first Parks and Recreation Chester Park Mini Master Plan Community meeting on Wednesday, May 2. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together City staff and community members to begin the process of creating Chester Park's own master plan which will serve as a guide for changes and park improvements in the future. This planning process is in accordance with the Parks Master Plan which was adopted by the Duluth City Council. The next meeting is an all-day "Open House" on Wednesday, **May 23** at the Chester Chalet. Some preliminary designs will be available based on input from our May 2 meeting. We encourage you to drop by at

any time between 11 am and 6 pm to talk to our consultant, Luke Sydow, and give us your comments, ideas, and suggestions.

Ice Skating at the Heritage Sports Center (120 South 30th Ave West). All skating sessions are free.

Wednesday-May 16	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 23	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 30	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-June 6	6:30-8:00 PM
Friday-June 8	Noon-4:00 PM

Special School's Out Skate

New Heritage Sports Center Spring "Rink Rat" Hockey Program Launched

The City of Duluth, DAHA, and the Duluth Heritage Sports Center will be offering a spring "Rink Rat" Hockey program for children ages 6 – 11. This opportunity will be designed to give those interested in trying out the sport of hockey a chance to do so in a non-competitive, indoor environment with experienced adult interaction and supervision. Each one hour session will include games and fun drills, followed by an informal game where participants will be equally rotated in for playing time. Sessions are FREE but are limited to 30 participants. Some equipment may be available for use but participants must be able to provide (or borrow) their own Helmets, Elbow/Knee pads and Stick. Space can be reserved and more information requested by calling 730-4388.

Saturday 12:45 – 1:45 pm May 12

Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm May 16, 19, 23

Saturdays 9:30 - 10:30 am May 26

Fridays 6:30 - 7:30 pm June 8, 15, 22, 29

Spring Ultimate Frisbee at Heritage Sports Center

Kids will learn how to play the game of Ultimate Frisbee! It's a fun, fast moving game similar to football, played with a frisbee but with very little physical contact. Show up for direction, skill practice, and pick-up games with well-seasoned players.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 18 - May 23

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Ages: 7-17

Cost: Free

Spring Turf Time at Heritage Sports Center

UMD Athletes, Parks Staff, and Men as Peacemakers will assist Youth Groups and their adult leaders in character development activities and sports-oriented games on the indoor Turf Facility. A variety of equipment, participants, and discussion topics make this a fun and interesting opportunity for all involved who desire active play with NO weather worries! Snack provided!

Dates: April 26 - May 31

Time: Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 PM

Ages: 7-17, with adult group leader or care-giver

Cost: Free

New to be offered this summer: Art Kits and Recreational Equipment Lending Program out of Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center. More information will be available in May or contact 730-4388 or ppage@duluthmn.gov.

City of Duluth Opens Trails to Public Use

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division reopened the City's trails for public use on April 26th. Trails are now open for biking, hiking, and leashed dog walking. Motorized vehicles, such as ATVs and motorcycles are not permitted on trails at any time. Please observe good trail etiquette when meeting others on the trail. Remember to leash your dog for the safety of your pet and others. Other trail users do not know that your dog is friendly and will not jump or bite. Pick up after your dog too. Trail users are asked to follow the following trail use etiquette:

- Please help maintain good trails for the enjoyment and safety of all users.
- Always stay on trails.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Be courteous when meeting others on the trail.
- Pick up and carry out litter.
- Please do not use the trails when wet.
- Avoid areas on the trails that are wet and muddy.

2012 Zoo Events

May 13	Mothers' Day & Teddy Bear Clinic
May 15/June 15	Membership Drive
June 7	M.A.D. Safari (Member Appreciation Day)
June 17	Wild About Dad (Fathers' Day)
August 2	Spirit Valley Days Parade
August 4	Run Like an Animal (run/walk)
August 16	Wine Tasting Event
September 9	Lion's Birthday & Grandparents' Day
October 13 & 20	Boo at the Zoo
December 8	Berlin's Birthday & Photos with Santa

30th Anniversary of Chester Creek Concert Series

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Chester Creek Concert Series. Join us on June 5th as we kick off a spectacular line up of local bands from the past and present. Mayor Don Ness will officially kick off the season. Concerts begin at 7 pm.

- June 5 McInnis' Kitchen
- June 12 Mynx
- June 19 Fish Heads
- June 26 Port Four - Pot Bellied Stallions
- July 3 Lester River Boys
- July 10 Circuit Breakers
- July 17 Rock a Billy Revue
- July 24 Sh Boom
- July 31 Busterville
- August 7 Sound Incorporated

*Rain Dates August 14 and 21

2012 Movies in the Park Schedule at Leif Erikson Park

July 13	Captain America: The First Avenger	124 min PG-13	Starts 9:01 PM
July 20	The Sandlot	100 min PG	Starts 8:55 PM
July 2	Fletch	96 min PG	Starts 8:47 PM
August 3	Top Gun	110 min PG	Starts 8:38 PM
August 10	Dolphin Tale	119 min PG-13	Starts 8:28 PM
August 17	Star Trek II: Wrath of Khan	113 min PG	Starts 8:16 PM
August 24	Harry Potter - Order of the Phoenix	138 min PG-13	Starts 8:04 PM
August 31	Labor Day Weekend – no movie		
September 7	Happy Feet	87min PG	Starts 7:37 PM

Your Parks Fund at Work!

The Parks Fund has provided the resources to improve our maintenance at parks, trails, ball fields, and green spaces. These are some examples of what City staff have been doing.

- New gardens going in on the boulevard on 5th Avenue West. City staff planted eight Spring Snow Crabapples and 40 shrub roses. A much needed makeover to the civic center entrance.
- Morgan Park received a new gazebo. Well, not exactly 'new', but the gazebo at Enger was removed to make way for the new, larger gazebo currently being built there and the old one was moved to Morgan Park. It will be repainted with a new color scheme.
- Longview Tennis is getting some makeovers - bleachers, stairs, landscaping, and court repairs.
- The tennis court at Fond du Lac is getting some much needed attention as well.
- Newly re-modeled, accessible bathrooms will soon be ready at Indian Point Campground.
- Like apple trees? Then you will want to begin a treasure hunt searching for about 125 apple trees being planted in our parks beginning May 8.
- New dugouts are going in at the Merritt Park softball field. Other field improvements include those being completed by our Roving Field Crew. You'll see great improvements at the fields at Portman and Piedmont, and a new building is going up at the Jean Duluth soccer fields.

Projects with our Partners

Superior Hiking Trail update: still looking for volunteers to help out with their construction and maintenance projects on Monday – Friday, **May 7-11**, Monday – Thursday, **May 14-17**, Monday – Friday, **May 21-25**, and Tuesday – Thursday, **May 29-31**. All tools and training provided, and there is a need for all abilities. For details about where projects will be, contact Larry Sampson at lbsamson@msn.com or 218-451-0003.

Ski Trails: Five members of the Northern Minnesota Track Club went to work on ski trails in Magney Snively on Thursday, May 3. The idea is to dry out and harden the trails over the course of the season. Next work dates are **May 10, 17, 24, and 31**. For more information, contact Luke at lmoravec@duluthmn.gov or 952-270-7951.

Kingsbury Creek Restoration Project: The Duluth Audubon Society is teaming with the City of Duluth and the Duluth StreamCorps to work on the west side of Kingsbury Creek, above the Zoo, to help remove invasive species and replant native species. On **May 17**, beginning at 1 pm, students from Denfeld High School will be planting trees in the area in celebration of Arbor Day!

Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance is planning work days to brush out the DWP. First work day is on National Trails Day, **June 2**. For more information, contact Kathy Shopa at kkstable@cyberport.net

Hartley Park Restoration Project: Hartley Nature Center and the City of Duluth held a public education program about buckthorn. About 30 people came out to view a slide show, to tour the removal and restoration of areas in Hartley Park, and to learn about methods and materials needed.

Volunteers from the Duluth Cross Country Ski Club also have started brushing and other work on the Spirit Mountain Trails. For more information about upcoming work dates, contact Dave at dmarkman@duluthmn.gov or 320-339-0305.

Disc Golf: About 30 volunteers came out on a sunny, warm April day to help re-construct and rehabilitate the disc golf course near Lake Superior College. More work is needed. Dates will be announced soon or contact Dave at dmarkman@duluthmn.gov or 320-339-0305 for more information about how to get involved.

Mountain Bike Trails: COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores) host trail work days on the Piedmont, Lester, and Hartley Trails on a weekly basis. For more information about when and where to meet to get involved, contact Adam at adamsundbergdc@gmail.com or 218-340-6110. Work is currently being done by BARR Engineering to finalize an Environmental Assessment Worksheet prior to any new trail work beginning on the Duluth Traverse. We will let you know when the public comment period for the EAW begins.

Projects in Northeastern MN are included in the latest state Legacy Amendment appropriations. Read the article at <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/229998/>

Interested in Forest Tent Caterpillars? The MN DNR updated its website: see more information at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fid/april2012/ftc-northeast.html>

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation has one of the most extensive park systems in the country. The City owns and maintains 11,862 acres including the following special areas:

- 129 municipal parks, playgrounds and public places
- Neighborhood community recreation centers
- Bayfront Festival Park
- Lake Superior Zoo
- 2 golf courses, each offering 27 holes
- Keene's Creek Dog Park
- Disc golf courses
- Skatepark at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Wade Municipal Stadium
- Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Hartley Nature Center
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
- Year round ice skating at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center
- Swimming at Park Point Beach
- Over 40 miles of mountain biking trails
- 55 miles of hiking trails
- Over 7 miles of the Duluth Lakewalk along the shores of Lake Superior
- 45 miles of snowmobile trails
- 70 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails
- 13 beautiful self-guided hiking trails

Currently, Duluth has 160 miles of trails within the city limits, including 40 miles of the national North Country Trail/Superior Hiking Trail, a hiking trail spanning the backbone of our 26-mile long city, connecting all of its neighborhoods. Duluth's trail system is incredibly diverse from cascading waterfalls in the gorge of Congdon Park, towering sand dunes on Park Point and waterfowl-filled habitats of the St. Louis River along the Western Waterfront Trail. Trails range from accessible to rugged. There is something for everyone here in Duluth.